



October 12, 2015

Chairman
Gerald Gray Jr.

1st Vice Chairman
Clarence Sivertsen

2nd Vice Chairman
Leona Kienenberger

Secretary/Treasurer
Colleen Hill

Council Members
Donald Davis
Richard Parenteau
Shawn Gilbert

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20201

Re: **Support letter for Montana's Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application**

Dear Secretary Burwell:

The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana has tribal members located throughout the state. Although we are closer than ever to becoming a federally recognized tribe, we are not there quite yet. The result of this long awaited decision is that members of our tribe have minimal, if any, access to health care coverage. Expanding Medicaid in Montana is critical to our members as well as our fellow citizens across the state.

During our government to government meeting with our tribal council and the director's office of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services at our tribal headquarters in Great Falls on October 5, 2015, we learned in detail about Medicaid Waiver, the alternatives benefits and the exemptions that are a part of the whole package. This same information was shared during the formal tribal consultation the department held in August of this year that we were unable to attend. Therefore, we appreciate the extra effort to keep us informed and engaged.

Medicaid Expansion will go a long way towards not only reducing the uninsured population in Montana, but also provide access to health coverage for those that have never had it including many of our tribal members.

Please consider the Waiver and its accompanying pieces and approve it at your earliest convenience. Your expediency is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gerald Gray
Chairman, Little Shell Tribe

